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Korea

Plan for U.S. Training of ROK Troops

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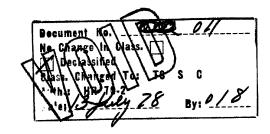
- Major General KIM Hong-il, thief of the Republic of Korea (ROK) officer and recruit training program, and Colonel YI Yong-mun, operations' officer of the training program and former leader of the Namsan ROK guerrillas, have drawn up a plan for the training of ROK troops by American advisers. HONG and YI have submitted their plan to President RHEE and Defense Minister SIN Sung-mo for approval. If the plan is approved by both the president and the defense minister, it will undoubtedly be confirmed by the cabinet.
- The plan consists of raising 15 divisions of ROK troops to be trained by U.S. advisers, and to be led by an American general. HONG and YI claim they can draw on 500,000 youth and could raise the number of divisions to 20 or 30. Their plan calls for 3 to 4 months: training* at any point designated by the U.S., but they suggest Okinawa, Japan, or Saipan as possible training areas. The U.S. is to be responsible for supply and transportation.
- These troops could be used in the present conflict or in World War III.

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Comment. The ROK army now gives recruits 16 days' training.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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